

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of regulating access to a content selection, the method comprising:

- configuring a media player to access a medium associated with the content selection;
- accessing the medium associated with the content selection;
- identifying a profile associated with the medium;
- configuring the media player to access a permissions engine that interfaces with a multitiered rule base that is configured to store a medium rule base, a media player rule base, and a host rule base, wherein the medium rule base is based on content permissions associated with the medium, the media player rule base is based on content permissions associated with the media player, and the host rule base is based on content permissions associated with the host;
- checking availability of the host rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the host rule base is available, accessing the host rule base;
- checking availability of the media player rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the media player rule base is available, accessing the media player rule base;
- checking availability of the medium rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the medium rule base is available, accessing the medium rule base;
- identifying priorities for rule bases within the multitiered rule base based on availability of the medium rule base, the media player rule base, and the host rule base within the multitiered rule base;
- using the profile to analyze a content request with the multitiered rule base based on the identified priorities of rule bases in multitiered rule base; and
- using the permissions engine in the media player to enable access to the content selection in accordance with one or more results of the analysis.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein identifying the profile includes identifying a reference for the medium.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein identifying the reference includes identifying a unique serial number.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying a user accessing the content selection.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein using the profile to analyze the content request includes determining an access right for the user for content identified by the profile.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising reporting the content request to a reporting agent.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein reporting the content request includes aggregating multiple content requests associated with a media player and reporting the multiple content requests to a host.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein using the profile to analyze the content request further includes polling a higher priority rule base to analyze the content request before polling a lower priority rule base.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein using the profile to analyze a content request includes automatically discovering additional access rights by polling the multitiered rule base if a user attempts to engage in a content request for an operation not previously allowed in accordance with the access right.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising enabling the user to engage in the content request by charging the content request against a user account.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein charging against the user account includes adjusting a license pool that enables the user to engage in one or more licensing operations.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein adjusting the license pool includes adjusting an escrow account for previously purchased access rights that do not specifically identify the content selection.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein charging against the user account includes using an out-of-band token to identify the account, and charging the content request against the user account in response to using the out-of-band token.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein using the profile to analyze the content request includes using the host rule base to analyze content requests, using the media player rule base if the host rule base is unavailable, and using the medium rule base if the media player rule base is unavailable.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein using the profile to analyze the content request includes determining an access right without challenging a user.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein reading the medium includes reading an out-of-band token related to the medium.

17. (Cancelled) .

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein using the profile to analyze the content request includes enabling a user to copy content only when the host rule base is used to analyze the content request.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein using the profile to analyze the content request includes enabling a user to copy content when a content-access system rule base is used to analyze a content request and a media player storing the media player rule base has exchanged licensing information with a host.

20. (Previously Presented) A system for regulating access to a content selection, the system comprising:

- a first configuration module structured and arranged to configure a media player to access a medium associated with the content selection;

- a content module structured and arranged to access the medium associated with the content selection;

- a second configuration module structured and arranged to configure the media player to access a permissions engine that interfaces with a multitiered rule base that is configured to store a medium rule base, a media player rule base, and a host rule base, wherein the medium rule base is based on content permissions associated with the medium, the media player rule base is based on content permissions associated with the media player, and the host rule base is based on content permissions associated with the host;

- a rule base availability module structured and arranged to:

- check availability of the host rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the host rule base is available, access the host rule base;

- check availability of the media player rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the media player rule base is available, access the media player rule base;

- check availability of the medium rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the medium rule base is available, access the medium rule base;

- a profiling module structured and arranged to identify a profile associated with the medium;

- a priority identification module structured and arranged to identify priorities for rule bases within the multitiered rule base based on availability of the medium rule base, the media player rule base, and the host rule base within the multitiered rule base;

an analysis module structured and arranged to use the profile to analyze a content request with the multitiered rule base based on the identified priorities of rule bases in multitiered rule base ; and

a regulating module structured and arranged to use the permissions engine in the media player to enable access to the content selection in accordance with one or more results from the analysis module.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20 further comprising a communications interface structured and arranged to report the content request to a reporting agent.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the communications interface is structured and arranged to aggregate multiple content requests associated with a media player and reporting the multiple content requests to a host.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20 wherein the profiling module is structured and arranged to poll a higher priority rule base to analyze the content request before polling a lower priority rule base.

24. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the profiling module is structured and arranged to automatically discover additional access rights by polling the multitiered rule base if a user attempts to engage in a content request for an operation not previously allowed in accordance with the access right.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 further comprising an accounting module structured and arranged to enable the user to engage in the content request by charging the content request against a user account.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the accounting module is structured and arranged to adjust a license pool that enables the user to engage in one or more licensing operations.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26 wherein the accounting module is structured and arranged to adjust an escrow account for previously purchased access rights that do not specifically identify the content selection.

28. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the accounting module is structured and arranged to use an out-of-band token to identify the account, and charge the content request against the user account in response to using the out-of-band token.

29. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the profiling module is structured and arranged to use the host rule base to analyze content requests, use the media player rule base if the host rule base is unavailable, and use the medium rule base if the media player rule base is unavailable.

30. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the profiling module is structured and arranged to enable a user to copy content only when the host rule base is used to analyze the content request.

31. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the profiling module is structured and arranged to enable a user to copy content when a content-access system rule base is used to analyze a content request and a media player storing the media player rule base has exchanged licensing information with a host.

32. (Previously Presented) A system for regulating access to a content selection, the system comprising:

means for configuring a media player to access a medium associated with the content selection;

means for accessing a medium associated with the content selection;

means for configuring the media player to access a permissions engine that interfaces with a multitiered rule base that is configured to store a medium rule base, a media player rule

base, and a host rule base, wherein the medium rule base is based on content permissions associated with the medium, the media player rule base is based on content permissions associated with the media player, and the host rule base is based on content permissions associated with the host;

means for checking availability of the host rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the host rule base is available, accessing the host rule base;

means for checking availability of the media player rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the media player rule base is available, accessing the media player rule base;

means for checking availability of the medium rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the medium rule base is available, accessing the medium rule base;

means for identifying a profile associated with the medium;

means for identifying priorities for rule bases within the multitiered rule base based on availability of the medium rule base, the media player rule base, and the host rule base within the multitiered rule base

means for using the profile to analyze a content request with the multitiered rule base based on the identified priorities of rule bases within the multitiered rule base ; and

means for using the permissions engine in the media player to enable access to the content selection in accordance with one or more results of the analysis.

33. (New) A method of regulating access to a content selection, the method comprising:
configuring a media player to access a medium associated with the content selection;
accessing the medium associated with the content selection;
identifying a profile associated with the medium by identifying a reference for the medium;

configuring the media player to access a permissions engine that interfaces with a multitiered rule base that is configured to store a medium rule base, a media player rule base, and a host rule base, wherein the medium rule base is based on content permissions associated with the medium, the media player rule base is based on content permissions associated with the media player, and the host rule base is based on content permissions associated with the host;

checking availability of the host rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the host rule base is available, accessing the host rule base;

checking availability of the media player rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the media player rule base is available, accessing the media player rule base;

checking availability of the medium rule base in the multitiered rule base and, if the medium rule base is available, accessing the medium rule base;

identifying priorities for rule bases within the multitiered rule base based on availability of the medium rule base, the media player rule base, and the host rule base within the multitiered rule base;

identifying a user accessing the content selection;

using the profile to analyze a content request with the multitiered rule base by determining an access right for the user for content identified by the profile; and

using the permissions engine in the media player to enable access to the content selection in accordance with one or more results of the analysis.